

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

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R 231501Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2629
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB
USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP APER USYO
SUBJECT: CHANGED STATUS OF YUGOSLAV IC IN NEW YORK
AND ZAGREB USIC

REF : STATE 087455

1. AS FAR AS YUGOSLAV FEDERAL AND REPUBLIC-LEVEL INFORMATION OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED, KEY PROVISION OF JUNE 14, 1961 "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" PROVIDES: "SUCH READING ROOMS WILL BE OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT YUGOSLAV LEGISLATION." ARTICLES 40 THROUGH 58 OF CURRENT PRESS LAW DELINEATE STATUS FOREIGN INFORMATION INSTITUTIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND STATUS OF DIRECTORS. ARTICLE 49, PARAGRAPH 4, SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES: "PERSONS EMPLOYED IN A DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR MISSION OF A FOREIGN STATE CANNOT PERFORM THE FUNCTION OF MANAGER."

2. CROATIA SR SECINFO MIRKO BILIC BROUGHT QUESTION OF USIC ZAGREB AND LACK OF DIRECTOR UP WITH INCOMING PAO MAY 29, 1974. BILIC HOPED THAT WE COULD EVENTUALLY BRING THE USIC ZAGREB INTO LINE WITH YUGOSLAV LEGISLATION. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND USIA/IEE, BILIC WAS INFORMED INFORMALLY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 02001 240708Z

NOVEMBER, 1974, THAT, WITH TIME, WE WOULD APPOINT

DIRECTOR OF ZAGREB USIC IN CONFORMANCE WITH YUGO-SLAV LEGISLATION.

3. AFTER FURTHER CONSULATATION WITH AMBASSADOR TOON, PAO ON APRIL 16, 1975, INTRODUCED STEPHEN DUBROW TO BILIC IN BILIC'S OFFICE, AS NEW ZAGREB USIC DIRECTOR. SEE APRIL 16 MEMCON.

4. LETTER "REGISTERING" DUBROW AS USIC DIRECTOR NOT YET SENT TO FEDERAL COMMITTEE, SO PRESUMABLY LINE OF REASONING REFTEL COULD BE PURSUED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE FIRM, RECENT CONFIRMATION FROM FEDERAL INFORMATION COMMITTEE THAT FOREIGN INFORMATION CENTERS IN YUGO-SLAVIA MUST REMAIN SUBJECT TO YUGOSLAV LAW, AND BE NON-DIPLOMATIC IN NATURE. (SEE MEMCON APRIL 4, 1975 OF CONVERSATION WITH ANTE CUDINA.

5. INFORMAL RECENT SOUNDINGS OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOVAK PRIBICEVIC, FSFA HEAD NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS STARCEVIC, CUDINA AND BILIC, INDICATE NO GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR STRBAC SUGGESTION. WE THEREFORE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD AGREE TO COMPROMISE THEIR OWN LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO GAIN IMPROVEMENT STATUS THEIR IC IN NEW YORK.

6. WE FEEL THAT FSFA AND FEDERAL INFORMATION OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING WITH US RECENTLY, I.E. STARCEVIC ENERGETICALLY WENT TO BAT FOR US IN CLEARING BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES STANDING IN WAY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FAST COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR USIC; COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION ASSISTED IN CONVINCING BOSNIAN AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW USIC SARAJEVO TO OPEN DESPITE (STILL UNRESOLVED) AFN-RADIO SARAJEVO DISPUTE, ETC. THEREFORE, UNLESS PROBLEMS UNKNOWN TO US EXIST, WE SUGGEST THAT DEPT. APPROVE CHANGE IN STATUS OF YUGOSLAV IC IN NEW YORK "IF CHANGE WILL FACILITATE YUGOSLAV INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES."

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